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Notre Dame cadets honor Veterans. See story on Page 3

By Col. Steven Corbett
Commander, Western Region

Holiday greetings to all of our cadets, cadre and employees! During this season, most of the world's major religions celebrate a significant event, ranging from Christmas to Hannukah. Regardless of one's personal beliefs, it is appropriate for all of us to take a few moments and reflect upon the blessings that we have in our lives, and more importantly, those people who are less fortunate, or lonely, or in danger.

The "Holiday Season" begins for me on Veteran's Day, the one day we have set aside to honor anyone who has served our Nation in uniform. This Veteran's Day, with our Nation at War, it is particularly poignant to recall the sacrifices our service men and women have made on behalf of our nation and the world.



The Thanksgiving holiday gives us all a chance to pause and reflect upon the many things that go right in our lives, and to focus upon the blessings that have been bestowed upon us as individuals and upon our Nation.

I probably do not need to remind any of you that nearly 200,000 American servicemembers ate their Thanksgiving dinners in places like Kabul, Fallujah, Baghdad, Kosovo – and on ships scattered across the globe. I, for one, am thankful that there are men and women who are willing to serve our country in the

Armed Forces, preserving freedom, protecting lives, and assisting the helpless, both in America and across the world.

We have a chance to take a short break from our studies, or from our efforts to support and train the Senior and Junior ROTC Cadets of the Western Region. Please remember that for many of our troops, there will be no break. Convoys still roll, Soldiers still battle a horrific and heartless enemy on the streets of Iraq and mountains of Afghanistan, and National Guard troops still labor mightily to recover places like New Orleans from the ravages of nature.

Use the sacrifices and inspiration of our troops to hone your efforts, to focus your dreams, and to make the great Americans serving around the world as proud of you, as we are of them.

New command sergeant major shares perspective

The Goldbar Leader welcomes Command Sgt. Maj. Victor Mercado to the top enlisted spot at Western Region. The CSM recently answered some questions to help us get to know him better.

Q: Where did you grow up? What was your family like?

A: I grew up in a La Plata, which is a small town located in Aibonito, Puerto Rico. I am the eldest of five children and the only one to have joined the military. My parents instilled in me all the great values that I live by today – hard work, loyalty, honesty, commitment, and the love of family. I truly believe that my upbringing helped me to make my transition into the Army a very easy one. Our Army lives by these same values every day.

Q: When did you join the Army? Why?

A: I joined this great organization on June 19, 1979. I decided to join because I needed to help my parents out with their finances. Who knew that 26 years later I would be blessed with a beautiful family that has supported me and been there for me always. I continue to drive on for the love of the military and for the sense of commitment to our country.

Q: What has your deployment history to the Middle East been like?



Photo by Jeremy O'Bryan

Command Sgt. Maj. Victor Mercado (right) sits down for a briefing session with Lt. Col. Dave Motz, chief of marketing operations at Western Region.

A: This past year I was deployed to Iraq. My battalion (TF Bobcats) served in Fallujah and Mosul. The hardest part of my combat tour was witnessing and experiencing the loss of six warriors and evacuating 150 wounded. Every day was a different day. We all learned that routine and complacency will kill on any battlefield. My soldiers and I learned how much we appreciate our country and will never take freedom or our beautiful USA for granted.

Q: Which three assignments would you say were most important to you?

A: All of my assignments have been very important to me. I've served in many different levels of responsibility. However, if I was to choose three of them it would be platoon sergeant, first sergeant, and command sergeant major because these positions allowed me to influence many Soldiers and junior leaders.

Q: What leadership traits are most important to you? Why?

A: All the traits are very important to me. I live by them everyday. Also, the Army Values and Warrior Ethos are

part of my everyday mission. I expect every soldier and leader to do the same.

Q: What do you expect from the NCOs scattered across the Western Region of Cadet Command, especially in light of the Army's Transformation Plan?

A: I expect all NCOs within our Region to be very supportive of the Army's Transformation Plan. The only way that this can be accomplished is by insuring our Soldiers and cadets are well-informed and trained at all times. The "agile and adaptive" concept will help overcome any transformation plan.

Q: What will your duty at Region look like between now and May 2006?

A: My duties as the Region command sergeant major encompass my challenges. I must insure that leaders at every level are taking care of their Soldiers and their families.

Leaders are not exempt from taking care of themselves and their families too. I know for a fact that if we are a "T" in this task then everything else will fall into place.

The Region website, at http://www.usacc.army.mil/accw/cmd_sgm.htm, has been updated with my comments, philosophy, and biography so Region members can have insight into my way of thinking and doing things. I encourage everyone to read these documents. I look forward to my tour of duty with this great team of warriors.



Col. Steven R. Corbett

Commander

Western Region, U.S Army Cadet Command

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Photo courtesy of the Albuquerque Journal – used by permission

An artist's life ...

TAOS, N.M. – John Gomez (center), a cadet with the Lobo Battalion at the University of New Mexico, and other members of New Mexico National Guard's 93rd Brigade carry the coffin of Native American artist R.C. Gorman from the Sagebrush Inn and Conference Center in Taos following his memorial service. Gorman, born in 1931, was known for his colorful paintings of native American life. For more information about Gorman, surf online to www.rcgorgmangallery.com.

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Indiana cadets honor Veteran's Day across campus

Cadet Corrie Brisson

St. Mary's at Notre Dame

As they rise to "wake the echoes" on a golden November morning, it is clear that the spirit of the past is an important aspect of the Notre Dame community, but for the Fightin' Irish Battalion, remembering the past became particularly important as they led Notre Dame in honoring America's veterans.

Through a series of events leading up to Veteran's Day weekend, the ROTC department celebrated the spirit of all members of the Armed Forces, and especially those men and women who have paid the ultimate price for freedom.

The events began on Nov. 10, with a Veteran's Day Tri-Military Run. Father John Jenkins, University of Notre Dame President, joined members of Army, Navy and Air Force ROTC units in a two and half-mile esprit de corps run around the campus. Afterwards he thanked cadets for answering the call to service.

Later that day, ROTC cadets began a 24-hour vigil in front of Clark Fountain, the University of Notre Dame's memorial to those who served in the World Wars, Vietnam and Korea. During the vigil, cadets from all three services stood guard at each side of the fountain in honor of America's veterans, prisoners of war and those missing in action.

Cadets from Army ROTC participated Nov.

10 and 11 in a yellow-ribbon campaign outside the dining halls of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's College. Members of the service group Alliance to Lead and Serve passed out yellow ribbons to students with attached messages reminding them of the importance of Veteran's Day, and encouraging them to come to the Veteran's Day ceremony.

"I think it is important to remind students of what is going on in our community and in the world," said ATLAS president and Army ROTC senior Margaret Lero. "Hopefully by honoring the Veterans it will encourage students to remember those who are currently serving in the military."

The culminating ROTC event of the week was the Tri-Military Veteran's Day ceremony. Cadets and midshipmen gathered together to honor America's veterans and celebrate the freedom they fought to preserve.

"This is an opportunity for the Notre Dame family, and greater South Bend community, to pay tribute to those who have served and continue to serve in the armed forces of our nation, and especially to remember those who have paid the ultimate price in the name of liberty," said Tri-Military Commander Rachael Walters of Army ROTC.

Father Theodore Hesburgh opened and closed the Ceremony with prayer for the nation, and especially for those who defend its freedom, while Marine Corps Maj. (Ret) Jason Frei, a veteran of Desert Storm, addressed the cadets and members of the

community, including Indiana Congressman Chris Chicola and members of the Tuskegee Airmen in attendance. Frei reminded the community that "our country has asked much of these young Americans, in the past and the present, so we can live the way we want to live today."

Cadet Benjamin Harm, who served for six months in Iraq, said Veteran's Day is very important to him, and that it is a "privilege and an honor to serve one's country." He hopes Veteran's Day will help serve as a reminder of those who are currently fighting the nation's wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"To me Veteran's Day is about respect," said Cadet Adam Devereux. "As men and women who want to join their ranks, we should have a deep respect for the veterans who have served our nation, and especially those who have paid the highest price for the freedoms we enjoy."

Lt. Col. Kelly Jordan wants cadets, as well as the whole community, to remember the significance of the Armed Forces at Notre Dame.

"Military training has been a part of this campus since 1858," said Jordan. "It is important that these cadets, who will serve their country in the future, remember that they carry with them the reputation of those who have gone before and that they represent those Veterans to the community."

"Veteran's Day is our way of showing respect to those who have come before us. We honor them and celebrate what they have done," said Jordan.

Special Forces training a summer option

Cadet Kevin Boldt

University of California—Santa Clara

In the War on Terrorism, Americans have seen the impressive capabilities of the U.S. Army's Special Forces at work. In Afghanistan, the central role of SF Soldiers in the fall of the Taliban regime demonstrated how small groups of elite Soldiers could get a job done that previous foreign invaders could not even accomplish with large armies. And the media imbedded with coalition forces in Iraq have repeatedly highlighted the significant role of SF Soldiers in the fall of the Iraqi regime and now in combating the insurgency. Though the value of Special Forces has been highlighted numerous times in our new post-September 11 world, there is still a wall of obscurity around of Special Forces.

This summer, some cadets had the opportunity to get a sneak peak into how the elite Special Forces Soldiers are formed. While most university students were taking classes, doing internships, or working, a few participated in the "Robin Sage" exercise, which is Phase IV of the qualification course for becoming U.S. Army Special Forces qualified.



Boldt

The 14-day field training exercise has been taking place in North Carolina for the past half century. Special Forces students are tasked with aiding the guerrilla forces within the fictitious "Pineland" in overthrowing the

harsh, authoritarian government. Acting as a role player in this complex exercise, I not only had the opportunity to participate in the development of the next generation of SF Soldiers.

In the two weeks that I participated in Robin Sage, I went head-to-head with the SF students and their "guerrillas" in training (who were ROTC, active duty, Reserve, and National Guard role players) in countless operations which varied in size, difficulty and complexity. Throughout the exercise, the untrained guerrillas made the job of the SF students even more difficult through their lack of discipline and constant demands. More importantly, the numerous active duty SF Soldiers and former SF Soldiers used their countless years of experience to throw realistic "curveballs" at the students throughout the training.

In ROTC, it is challenging to find more than two weekends of training during the academic year. Robin Sage provides cadets with much more than that in this two week exercise. I had the opportunity to learn tactics from the best in the business.

Though most cadets who participate in Robin Sage will not become an SF Soldier, the opportunity to interact with this elite group will play an important role in the development of the next generation of Army officers.



Drop and gimme 20 ...

PITTSBURG, Kansas – Pittsburg State University ROTC Cadets already know they are high-profile because of the number of push ups they do during Saturday home football games. Now they are higher profile. For every touchdown the nationally ranked PSU Gorillas score, the cadets, in unison, do push ups to equal the number of points, over and over again. Sometimes that equates to three hundred push ups during one football game. PSU Gorillas are that good. This year, a new twist to an old tradition. Cadets hoist a 4-foot by 8-foot plywood board into the air as a fellow cadet executes the appropriate number of push ups. The "push up board" is professionally painted with the Cadet Command organizational Leadership patch on one side and the PSU Split Face Gorilla logo on the opposite side.

Bisbee 1000 has cadets, cadre climbing

Field Report

University of Arizona

In 1990, headlines in the *New York Times* caught the eye of Cynthia Conroy, a new arrival to the charming Arizona mountain community of Bisbee. The *Times* article claimed that Americans were returning to the gyms by the thousands, lured by the latest fitness craze: the newly invented stair climbing machines. At the same time, research from San Diego State University showed that walking upstairs was the cardiovascular equivalent of jogging at 5.3 miles per hour.

Armed with this information, Conroy formed the non-profit group Save Our Stairs, which sponsors the Bisbee 1000, an event that would draw on the unique resources of this mile high town.

Unique to Bisbee is a system of old and deteriorating stairways that course up and through its picturesque hills, affording views of the town's quaint houses and colorful gardens. The stairways originally followed the mule paths worn into the terrain during the heyday of Bisbee's copper mining past. To put men back to work during the Great Depression, the Work Projects Administration had overseen building of the stairs over those same pathways.

Since the initial staging of the Bisbee 1000, the event has grown each year. The 2004 event attracted over 800 participants. The Wildcat Battalion from University of Arizona, in its attempt to maintain a high state of physical fitness sent 14 cadets and two



Cadet Danniell Sands

cadre members to the 15th Annual Bisbee 1000 in October. They endured a grueling 3.4 mile course climbing over 1,000 stairs. Cadet Dan Blomberg placed 1st in the male 21-24 group; Maj. Richard Garn placed 1st in the male 45-49 group. This is the second year that the battalion attended the event.

Pershing society gears up for growth

By Bob Rosenburgh

Western Region, Cadet Command

Jeremy Barnes and Monica Olson have an important mission. Since Barnes is President of the Varsity Rifles, which is the alumni association of the National Society of Pershing Rifles, and Olson is national commander of the Pershing Rifles, they have made it their duty to re-invigorate membership and expand the scope of this prestigious national institution within ROTC.

"Our primary goal is supporting Army, Navy and Air Force ROTC," said Barnes, "and where they build leaders, we're trying to build the best of those leaders by teaching the ideals of Gen. John J. Pershing to their cadets and using those ideals to take what they are doing a few steps further." Towards that end, they've attended a number of high level conferences and events where they could meet the Army leadership and influential supporters of the society. "The biggest thing we're doing is to let them know our goals, how we support them and hope they will support us when they can." As head of Varsity Rifles, Barnes is the key player in overseeing how the future of both organizations develops.

Olson's duties, on the other hand, are specific to the Pershing Rifles.

"As national commander," she explained, "my duties are the same as any other commanding officer. I'm responsible for everything my Pershing Riflemen do or do not do. I visit the units and talk with my subordinate commanders to make sure everything is going well, plan the national convention, commander's call, get involved with other civic organizations and keep Cadet Command informed and involved, often with briefings as needed." She said she frequently aids PR commanders in the field.

It's important to note at this point, that Olson is a very unique individual. She is currently an Army Military Science IV Nursing cadet at Creighton University in Omaha, Ne., and has just completed the Leader Development Assessment Course at Operation Warrior Forge, held annually at Fort Lewis, Wash.



Photo by Bob Rosenburgh

At the 2005 George C. Marshall Conference in Lexington, Va., are (left) Jeremy Barnes, President of the Varsity Rifles and (right) Pershing Rifles Maj. Gen. Monica Olson, a senior Army ROTC cadet who is also National Commander of the National Society of the Pershing Rifles.

Her awards and honors with the Black Wolves Battalion are legion, but she also holds the distinction of being the only cadet in the country who is a major general ... that's right ... a Pershing Rifles major general, which is a special rank outside the standard cadet ranks but remarkable nonetheless.

"Even within ROTC," said Barnes, "there is no other organization that is run, staffed and operates solely by cadets, as with Pershing Rifles." He said this gives its members unparalleled opportunities for learning leadership and responsibility alongside the military training they receive. As such, PR ranks go much higher than the brevet ranks cadets hold within their battalions, since Pershing Rifles has companies (or squadrons), regiments and a national commander. "You'll never see another cadet major general, so that's just something unique to us and we're very proud of it," said Barnes. When the National Commander is a Naval Cadet, he or she would hold the brevet rank

of PR rear admiral.

The Pershing Rifles were formed in 1891 as Company A by then-Lieutenant Pershing. It was constituted from the best cadets at the University of Nebraska to promote excellence and camaraderie within their distinguished drill team. Later renamed the Varsity Rifles, in 1894 the name Pershing Rifles was bestowed on the society to honor the high standards of its founder.

The society grew in stature following heroic actions by some of its alumni in the Spanish-American War, but began to recede after that to the point it was disbanded in 1917. Reborn in 1920, it rose from the ashes to once again become a prestigious group, but when the Ohio State University joined its ranks in 1925 with a chapter of their own, followed by University of Tennessee in 1927, a new policy of strong local chapters under a national organizational structure was adopted and the society subsequently grew in stature nationwide. Their headquarters

have been at University of Nebraska since 1928.

Today, more than 63 colleges around the country have a Pershing Rifles chapter, promoting excellence in drill, character and academics amongst their members. Among the ranks of PR alumni are such luminaries as Gen. and Sec. of State Colin Powell, Gen. Curtis LeMay, James Earl Jones, Gen. Hugh Shelton, Gen. Jack Keane and, of course, Pershing himself. But visionaries like Barnes and Olson see even greater potential for an organization that holds its standards so high.

"We want to bring new units into the Pershing Rifles," said Olson, "and when they come in, we have a lot to teach them of the work ethic, striving for perfection and going beyond the standard." She said their current expansion initiative is seeking ROTC units that want to form a drill team and starting their own Pershing Rifles company. "As part of the process we have some paperwork to complete and there is a minimum requirement of ten interested cadets with at least one year left when the process is completed." She said among the benefits of PR membership are a good standing with their school as a student organization, building a stronger relationship with their ROTC cadre, and they'll use M-1903A3 Springfield or M1 Garand parade rifles as part of a top-notch drill team that can then compete at the Pershing Rifles National Convention. "If they already have a drill team, it can convert to a PR team," she added. Once they are ready for membership, the pledge team goes to the Pershing Rifles National Convention to demonstrate their proficiency on the drill floor.

To find out more about the National Society of Pershing Rifles, or to apply to start a new unit, visit the national headquarters website at <http://nhq.pershingrifles.com>.

"We can provide everything you need," said Olson. "We have expansion CDs, contact information and we can connect you with the nearest representative in your area for one-on-one assistance." She said it's hard work and interested parties should start as soon as possible.



Lanett cadet earns Bronze Cross

LANETT, Ala. – Cadet Leah Carpenter was awarded the Legion of Valor Bronze Cross for achievement. She demonstrated a combination of outstanding scholarship, exceptional character, and superior leadership in the JROTC program, her school, and in her community.

Carpenter, the daughter of Mike and Melinda Carpenter of Lanett, is one of only five cadets in Western Region to receive the prestigious award this year. In her fourth year of JROTC at Lanett, and a three-time graduate of the JROTC Cadet Leadership Challenge Camp, Carpenter is the cadet battalion commander, commander and member of the Panther Battalion's JROTC Golden Knights' award winning drill, color guard, and rifle teams, a member of the Student Council, National Honor Society, Key Club, Scholar's Bowl Team, and serves as a drum major for the Golden Panthers' Marching Band.

The Legion of Valor is a prestigious veterans' organization whose membership is restricted to veterans who have earned one of America's two highest awards for bravery in combat, the Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, or the Air Force Cross.

Presenting the award is a Legion of Valor member, Command Sergeant Major (Ret.) Bennie Adkins.

Cougar Battalion collects for hurricane relief

By Brandi Donohew
Spanish Springs HS

RENO, Nev. – Reno happens to be 2,440.86 miles from New Orleans, but members of the Spanish Springs JROTC battalion felt they needed to do something to try to ease the pain the hurricanes left behind this fall.

When it came to helping our fellow Americans in a time of need, the entire school got together. Announcements went up and students acted. On a normal Thursday in October the cadets of the battalion collected money for the victims in the South. When the staff officers rang up the total, the school had given more than \$3,300 in the course of fifteen minutes.

At the Friday assembly, Battalion Commander Cadet Chelsea Henke, and Senior Army Instructor Lt. Col. Mike Coger, presented a check for \$3,300 to a representative from the American Red Cross. The gymnasium was the loudest it has ever been when the amount of money raised was announced to the school.

Rio Linda JROTC commemorates Veterans

Cadets Will Hansen and Gwen Greer
Rio Linda HS

RIO LINDA, Calif. – November 11 was a beautiful, crisp, clear day as JROTC students from Rio Linda High School gathered at Sunset Lawn Cemetery for the 5th annual Veteran's Day Ceremony. The ceremony was hosted by Brett Eutlser, Jessica Enriquez, and the other staff members at Sunset Lawn. Community leaders, dignitaries, veterans, and JROTC parents assembled to honor all those who have worn the uniform of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Cadet LeeAnne Childers, Battalion Commander, took the podium to ask all those present to stand for the presentation of the colors. She led 57 cadets and the battalion color guard – bearing the colors of the United States, the State of California, the U.S. Army, Rio Linda's Knights Battalion and the POW/MIA flag – forward to begin the ceremony.

Chaplain (Maj.) John Herrmann, US Army Reserve, delivered the keynote address. His message honoring past, present and future veterans was well-received by the audience which rewarded him with a long, thunderous ovation.

The ceremony concluded with a 21-gun salute by members of VFW Post 4647 and a mournful rendition of Taps.

Sergeant Maj. Tom Halbrook remarked, "These cadets are amazing. We have 109 cadets in our program

and more than half of them showed up here today. We didn't offer them any special incentives – they just care. I am very proud of them."

Kristin and Frank Higginson have two daughters in the Rio Linda program.

"We're naturally very proud of our girls," Higginson said. "They both thoroughly enjoy JROTC. The program is actually helping them discover who they are and the role they want to play in the world. I am so glad they are involved. JROTC is clearly one of the best programs at Rio Linda and in the Grant District."

The Sunset Lawn ceremony was the culminating event for Rio Linda JROTC students. During the preceding week, they had presented "Veteran's Day Moments" during morning announcements. Additionally, the battalion conducted an e-mail survey of the school staff to discover which staff members had served in the Armed Forces, and prepared commemorative certificates for each one. The certificates were presented to these staff members during "Commendations" held before a staff and faculty meeting in November.

"These JROTC students are always doing something to better our school community," said Saul Gleser, Rio Linda Vice Principal. "They are a very active group. I am proud of them and it is obvious the faculty veterans they recognized here today are even prouder – both of their service to our nation and this recognition."



Bring it!

PHOENIX, Ariz. – The Bonanza High School JROTC battalion from Las Vegas, Nev., presented the colors Aug. 13 at the Arizona Cardinals' National Football League pre-season home opener against the Dallas Cowboys. More than 50,000 people attended the game. The Cardinals won 13-11.

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Former POWs from Hoosier State turn out to display their stories

By Cadet Alycia Stone

Morton Memorial Indiana Soldiers' and Sailor's Children's Home

KINIGHTSTOWN Ind. – *What's it like to be a POW?* When the cadets at the Morton Memorial Indiana Soldiers' and Sailor's Children's Home started our project to answer this question, we had no idea how much we would learn about our fellow Hoosiers who had been prisoners in wars past.

We began the project in March 2005. The Indiana State POW/MIA organization provided mailing labels for the 809 Hoosiers on their rosters who had been a POW in a past war. They asked us to mail a letter to each one, inviting them to submit their stories to be used in a display which would be presented at the September 2005 Indiana POW/MIA Ceremony in Indianapolis.

Over 100 men responded with information including books, videos, manuscripts, photos, poems,



Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) and Mrs. L.T. McDaniel with Cadet Alycia Stone (right) at the memorial display.

drawings, and letters. From these items, we compiled 86 for the display with anecdotes from these men's experiences.

The display was a huge success with 32 of the men who had shared their stories with us visiting the display. It was very rewarding as we stood by and facilitated the display as hundreds of people perused the stories. The display will be available for any school or veteran's group in Indiana to borrow. Eventually the material will be turned over to the Indiana War Memorial Commission.

For those of us on the cadet staff who worked with these stories, it was impossible to not be left with a sense of awe for what these men endured. It was humbling to realize how they persevered in the face of such physical and mental deprivation.

Each cadet in the Tiger Battalion was given the assignment to select one man's story to write about. We all have a better understanding of this inspiring aspect of our nation's military history and what some men endured in the defense of the freedom we enjoy every day.

Alaska junior cadets attend inaugural leadership symposium

Field Report

Dimond HS

ANCHORAGE, Alaska – Dimond HS JROTC was nominated by 13th Brigade last Spring as the Brigade's representative to attend the Inaugural General George C. Marshall JROTC Leadership Symposium.

Dimond was the only school nominated by the Brigade, which has 52 programs throughout the Northwest United States and the Pacific. Only 32 programs out of more than 1,600 units were invited to send four cadets to the symposium.

The 128 cadets attending represented less than a thousandth of one percent of the 300,000-plus students enrolled in Army JROTC programs. The four cadets selected had to have a 3.0 or better GPA, been in a high leadership position in JROTC, no disciplinary actions, and a group total of 250 hours of community service.

Dimond's representatives were Cadet Lt. Col. Kristine Sonido, Battalion Commander; Cadet Maj. Brock Olson, Executive Officer; Cadet Capt. Courtney Ebert, Company Commander; and Cadet 1st Lt. Darrell Nettlow, Battalion Operations Officer.

Besides being recognized as the premier crop of tomorrow's leaders and being lauded as "The Best of the Best," these cadets learned about ways to hone their leadership skills and motivate others to be better citizens. Cadet Command and the George C. Marshall Foundation staged the three-day event at the campuses of Virginia Military Institute and Washington and Lee University near Lexington, Virginia.

Cadets were exposed to people who have long been successful in their careers. The guest speakers challenged the cadets to set the example for the student body, maintain high standards of character and work hard towards achieving their goals.

AUSA president speaks to Hawaii junior cadets

HONOLULU – General Gordon Sullivan, president and chief operating officer of the Association of the United States Army, visited Punahou School in October to speak to JROTC cadets and cadre. Cadets from other ROTC programs across Oahu also attended.

General Sullivan was the 32nd Chief of Staff of the Army. He retired in July 1995 after more than 36 years of active service.

He urged the students to become people of moral courage and character, and to be willing to stand up for what is right and tell it like it is. He also spoke of the importance of team-work, being well-educated, motivated, and taking initiative.

"Hope is not a method," he said. "You have to get your butt out of bed, and tell yourself that you are going to make things happen."

Sullivan said his Army career taught him to acknowledge the value and strength of people, which is necessary to take on something larger than yourself. He also recognized the importance of having support, like family, friends, teachers, and cadre.

Sullivan reminded the JROTC cadets that, as cadets, they, along with everyone else involved with the U.S. military, are representatives of the



Cadet Kelsey Kaneshiro, Sullivan, and Maj. Robert Takao

whole country. It is their job, he said, to educate those Americans who "don't have a clue about service."

"Our country's wars," he said, "are not fought with machines. Those only help. Wars are fought by men and women of character and courage."

Also attending the presentation were General Fred Weyand, the Chief of Staff of the Army during the Vietnam era, Command Sergeant Major Jimmie Spencer, and Mr. Bill Pate, the civilian advisor to the Secretary of the Army for the Pacific Region.

Rio Linda plots a course, adopts orienteering as new activity

RIO LINDA, Calif. – Seventeen members of the Rio Linda HS JROTC program began a new sport this year. The activity called "orienteering," in which participants navigate across land with map and compass.

The Rio Linda JROTC conducts its orienteering competitions in cooperation with the Gold Country Orienteering Club, which conducts monthly meets and competitions throughout Sacramento County and Northern California. The Fall season consists of 4 events – one held each month at varying locations through the Sacramento area.

Cadets Katrina Alaimo and Brendyn Sullivan are this year's team co-captains.

"We have a really enthusiastic and diverse group of competitors this year," Alaimo said. Sullivan added, "We have a big group of varying abilities. Fortunately, there is usually a course to match an individual or group's abilities. The whole program is just a lot of fun."

Will Hansen and Samantha Raynal participated in their first event back in September, finishing 10th in a field of 78. "It was a great experience," Hansen said. "I kept us moving while Sam provided a lot of map reading expertise."

Rayna, though absolutely exhausted at the finish line, was really pleased that the two worked so well together. "This is a great sport," she said.

Rio Linda student organizes blood drive

By Will Hansen and Gwen Greer

Rio Linda HS



Woods

RIO LINDA, Calif. – Rio Linda High School recently hosted a highly successful blood drive on behalf of the victims of Hurricane Katrina and other needy persons throughout the Sacramento region. In charge of the event was Cadet Kristin Woods. Woods, a senior, is serving as the JROTC battalion personnel officer (S1) this year. One of her principle duties is to organize and conduct at least 3 blood drives during the school year.

“I have so many responsibilities this year I often feel really overwhelmed,” Woods

said. “But somehow I am getting everything done on time and up to standard – even my grades.”

Woods began to organize the event about four weeks before the event date. JROTC provides a positive structure within which to organize such events. With the support of her battalion commander, Cadet Lieutenant Colonel LeeAnne Childers, and the rest of the cadets, Woods tasked other cadets as recruiters, greeters, runners, and recovery room attendants.

“Our recruiters targeted students who gave last year and then used publicity to sign up new donors,” Woods said. “My recruiters were stationed in the “castle area” at lunch times and we made presentations to Advisory Classes on Wednesdays. We got a great, positive response.

“Every pint of blood collected can be used to support 3 needy patients in this area – or wherever blood products might be needed. The late Mr. Milan, our former vice principal, was a faithful donor and a direct beneficiary of our blood drive efforts. I want his memory to live on forever at Rio Linda High and having successful blood drive is one way I think I can help do that.”

Though Woods was nervous on the day of the drive, everything came off without a hitch. BloodSource representative Debbie Milos said that Rio Linda’s blood drive had to be one of the best in the county.

“Everything was so well organized and the students have to be the politest we serve. Our personnel ask to come to Rio Linda because of the fine organization and student behavior. Seventy five potential donors came through the door and we were able to draw 68 pints of blood. That is an outstanding accomplishment.”

Already planning for the next drive, Woods wants to increase participation and has set a goal of recruiting at least 25 new donors. Kristin credits a lot of her success to support from her Aunt Sharon, her teachers, and the students from JROTC.

“Oh, and I don’t want to forget our Principal, Mr. Liles. He makes some very interesting and effective announcements supporting our efforts.”



And the winner is ...

EDMOND, Okla. – *Top:* Cadets Peder Angel and Joshua Hollman battle it out to find the elusive and slippery coin in the mud. *Bottom:* Angel, covered in the red Okie clay above, comes up victorious. The University of Central Oklahoma’s Broncho Battalion Cadets compete biannually in a friendly competition in September for tangible prizes and bragging rights in the ROTC Cadet Olympics. The Cadet Olympics occurs at the beginning of every Spring and Fall semester. Each military science class competes in the events – such physical challenges as the litter carry, fireman’s carry, 5-gallon jug sprint, 50-pound sandbag carry, and the “dizzy bat” race. The event culminates with the tug-of-war. The MS IV senior class won the overall competition in Septem-

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